

REMARKS

Claims 1, 16, 18, 27, 29, 31, 35, 38, and 39 have been amended. Claims 2, 17, 21, and 30 have been cancelled. Claims 40-56 have been added. Claims 1, 3-16, 18-20, 22-30, and 31-56 remain pending in the application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Specification:

Section 1 of the Office Action objected to the specification because to two typographical errors in the abstract. Accordingly, the abstract has been amended to correct the cited typographical errors.

Claim Objections:

Section 2 of the Office Action objected to claim 29 due to the misspelling of the word “signaling”. Accordingly, claim 29 has been amended to correct the cited misspelling.

Section 101 Rejection:

Section 3 of the Office Action rejected claims 16-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. The Examiner suggested the use of language claiming a physical embodiment of the control program. Accordingly, the cited claims have been amended to incorporate the Examiner’s suggestion.

Section 102(e) Rejection:

Section 5 of the Office Action rejected claims 1-6, 11-12, 14, 16-21, and 27-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Craig et al. U.S. Patent 6,260,111 (hereinafter “Craig”).

Amended claim 1 recites, in pertinent part, “where a portable storage device having the supplied network identity is not returned to the device reader within a predetermined time following removal of the portable storage device from the device reader, to power itself down”.

At the passage cited by the Examiner with regard to this feature, Craig teaches “if the smart card 220 has been removed, then the power management unit 218 assumes that the user no longer wants to use the network computer and shuts down the system”. Thus, there is no disclosure or even suggestion in Craig that a processing unit should wait a predetermined time before shutting down where a portable storage device having a supplied network identity is removed from a device reader as presented in claim 1. To the contrary, Craig appears to teach that a system should immediately shut down upon the removal of smart card 220.

Accordingly, claim 1 and all claims depending therefrom are believed to patentably distinguish over Craig. Applicants further believe that since claims 16 and 29 recite features similar to those discussed above with regard to claim 1, these claims, along with all of their dependent claims, also patentably distinguish over Craig.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Section 6 of the Office Action objected to claims 7-10, 13, 15, and 35-39 (and Applicant believes 22-26) as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but stated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the

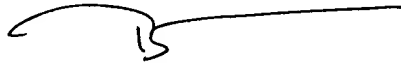
limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. Accordingly, these claims have been re-written as new claims 40-56.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5681/04000.

Respectfully submitted,



B. Noël Kivlin

Reg. No. 33,929

ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT(S)

Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C.
P.O. Box 398
Austin, TX 78767-0398
Phone: (512) 853-8800

Date: 8-3-04